

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A receiving station in compliance with a communications method capable of switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in the receiving station returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, the receiving station comprising:

a resource; and

a controller controlling the resource to release when the receiving station receives a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme from a transmitting station, wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a data frame requesting the BlockAck scheme within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame requesting the NormalAck scheme, regarding use of the BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

7. (Currently amended) A communications method allowing a receiving station to switch between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, said communications method comprising the step of:

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a data frame requesting the BlockAck scheme within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame requesting the NormalAck scheme, regards ing use of the BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasesing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

8. (Currently amended) A receiving station in compliance with a communications method capable of switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in the receiving station returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, the receiving station comprising:

a resource; and

a controller controlling the resource to release when the receiving station receives a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme from a transmitting station, wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a BlockAck request frame within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame, regards ing use of the BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasesing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

9. (Currently amended) A communications method allowing a receiving station to switch between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame

and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, said communications method comprising the step of:

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a BlockAck request frame within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame, regards ing use of BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasesing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

10. (Currently amended) A receiving station in compliance with a communications method capable of switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in the receiving station returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, the receiving station comprising:

a resource; and

a controller controlling the resource to release when the receiving station receives a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme from a transmitting station, wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a data frame requesting the BlockAck scheme or a BlockAck request frame within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame, regards ing use of BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasesing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

11. (Currently amended) A communications method allowing a receiving station to switch between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, said communications method comprising the step of:

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

the receiving station, if not having received a data frame requesting the BlockAck scheme or a BlockAck request frame within a predetermined period regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a data frame, regards ing use of the BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasesing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme.

12. (Currently Amended) A communications method switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame ~~in compliance with the IEEE 802.11 standard (ANSI/IEEE Std. 802.11, 1999 Edition) and the Draft IEEE 802.11e standard (IEEE P802.11e/D6.0, November 2003)~~, said communications method comprising the step of:

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

a receiving station of a stream of a traffic identifierTID, if not having received a Quality of Service (QoS) data frame including an Acknowledgement Policy field containing information indicating ~~a-the~~ BlockAck within the period of BlockAck Timeout regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a QoS data frame including an Acknowledgement Policy field containing information indicating ~~a-the~~ NormalAck, regards use of BlockAck scheme as having been terminated, and releasesing resource being used for transmission of the BlockAck.

13. (Currently Amended) A communications method switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame ~~in compliance with the IEEE 802.11 standard (ANSI/IEEE Std. 802.11, 1999 Edition) and the Draft IEEE 802.11e standard (IEEE P802.11e/D6.0, November 2003)~~, said communications method comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

a receiving station of a stream of a traffic identifierTID, if not having received a Block Acknowledgement Request Frame within the period of BlockAck Timeout regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a Quality of Service data frame, regards use of BlockAck scheme as having been terminated, and releasesing resource being used for transmission of ~~a-the~~ BlockAck.

14. (Currently Amended) A communications method switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in compliance with the IEEE 802.11 standard (ANSI/IEEE Std. 802.11, 1999 Edition) and the Draft IEEE 802.11e standard (IEEE P802.11e/D6.0, November 2003), said communications method comprising the step of:

releasing a resource when a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme is received,
wherein:

a receiving station of a stream of a traffic identifier ~~TID~~, if not having received a Quality of Service (QoS) data frame including an Acknowledgement Policy field containing information indicating a BlockAck or a Block Acknowledgement Request Frame within the period of BlockAck Timeout regardless of whether the receiving station has or has not received a QoS data frame including an Acknowledgement Policy field containing information indicating a NormalAck, regards use of BlockAck scheme as having been terminated, and releasesing resource being used for transmission of the BlockAck.

15. (Currently Amended) A receiving station capable of switching between a NormalAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a single frame in one frame and a BlockAck scheme that includes an acknowledgement for a plurality of frames in one frame in returning an Acknowledgement for a received data frame, said receiving station comprising:
a resource;

a controller controlling the resource to release when the receiving station receives a message to terminate the BlockAck scheme from a transmitting station, wherein:

a timer; and

a timer control mechanism for resetting the timer upon receiving at least one of a data frame requesting the BlockAck scheme and a BlockAck request frame within a predetermined period; and

a resource control mechanism for regarding use of the BlockAck scheme as having been terminated and releasing resource being used for the BlockAck scheme when the timer has reaches a predetermined period.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 7 containing the communications program of claim 17.

19. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 9.

20. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 11.

21. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 12.

22. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 13.

23. (New) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, said instructions are read and executed by a processor for causing the processor to perform the communications method of claim 14.